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Miscellaneous Articles.

Circumstances Attending the Capture of President Davis.

LETTER FROM HON. J. H. REAGAN.

PALESTINE (TEXAS), Aug. 10, 1869.

To the Galveston News: I find the following passages in what purports to be a speech delivered in the Convention of Texas on the 6th January, 1869, by Judge L. D. Evans, under the heading, in large letters,

"THEY WANT EMPIRE."

"On the fall of Richmond, Jefferson Davis started the Confederate treasury Westward, deluding himself with the dream of a trans-Mississippi empire.

"I asked his Postmaster-General, Mr. Reagan, how it was that the President of their Confederacy should be caught with his baggage wagons in the awkward plight of being under his wife's cloak. He informed me that Davis had left his trains and struck for the seaboard, when, after a day's ride, hearing that the Confederate forces had disbanded, and would probably endanger the safety of his family, he returned.

"I suspect that Davis feared more for the safety of his Confederate Treasury, which he hoped to get safely into Texas, where, had Magruder been able to keep his army together, a nuclus for the material of a war would have enabled him to continue the struggle."

The speech containing these passages was extensively circulated through Texas last Spring, and was sent to myself and others here. I then intended to call attention to the errors in the above paragraphs, but in the hurry of business, neglected to do so. A new batch of these speeches is now being circulated through the State, and I am favored with a second crop.

On the first paragraph of the above, I have only to say that on the fall of Richmond President Davis did not start "deluding himself with the dream of a Trans-Mississippi empire." He left Richmond with the hope of uniting the armies of Generals Lee and Johnston, and with the further hope, after this should be done, of meeting and defeating the armies of Generals Sheridan and Grant before they could form a junction; or, if this could not be done, of occupying the first good defensive line which might be chosen after the junction of the forces of Generals Lee and Johnston. Desperate as the fortunes of war then were for the Confederacy, he had not abandoned the hope of carrying on the struggle East of the Mississippi.

On the second paragraph I have to say that Mr. Davis and his Cabinet and staff officers left their baggage wagon and all their personal baggage, except such as each took for himself in his saddlebags, at Abbeville, South Carolina. The train which carried such supplies as were taken from that to Washington, Georgia, and what funds still remained in the Confederate Treasury, were under the escort of the few remaining cavalry troops. And this train went no further than the latter place. Some days after leaving Washington, Mr. Davis was captured in the Southern part of the State.

While at Danville, Virginia, he learned of the surrender of Gen. Lee, and shortly after he left Charlotte, North Carolina, he learned of the surrender of General Johnston. So it is seen he was not "caught with his baggage wagons;" that he had long before known of the surrender of the armies, in that part of the Confederacy; that he had no train to return to; and that he did not then, for the first time, learn of the disbanding of the Confederate forces as the inducement to his return to his train.

I have not seen Judge Evans since November, 1865, and do not remember or believe that he ever asked me the question he puts in this paragraph. And I am sure I could not have made him the answer he puts in my mouth, for it would have been untrue in fact.

Mr. Davis' family left Richmond in March, perhaps in the early part of that month. Richmond was evacuated on the 2d of April. He did not see his family after they left Richmond, until a little before daylight on the 7th of May, when he, happening to hear of them, and that they were in serious danger, accompanied by a few faithful friends, had gone to their relief. He and those friends travelled with his family that day, and camped with them that night. The next morning they separated, but, from inaccurate information as to roads, were again by accident thrown together in the evening, and camped together that night, travelled together the next day, and were captured at daylight the next morning, the 10th of May. As he had not previously seen his family after they left Richmond, there was no returning to them.

On the third paragraph I have to say that Judge Evans' suspicions that Mr. Davis feared more for the safety of his Confederate Treasury than for his family, is mere mental speculation, without the support of facts. The Confederate treasure at Washington, Georgia, consisted, as was supposed, of some eighty-five thousand in gold, some thirty or thirty-five thousand in silver coin, about the same amount in silver bullion, and between six and seven hundred thousand dollars in Confederate Treasury notes. The silver coin was paid to the troops who were there, so much to each man and officer, without reference to rank, as it was too bulky and inconvenient, under the circumstances which surrounded us, to be safely transported to our depositories at Bermuda, Nassau or Liverpool. For the same reason, the silver bullion was turned over to a Major Moses of the commissary department, and was left at Washington in an ordinary warehouse. The gold was placed in the hands of two officers of the Confederate navy, then there, with instructions to convey it, as soon as this could safely be done, to one of the depositories above named. While in prison I saw statements in the New York papers that amounts of gold and silver bullion corresponding with the above had been captured by the Federal forces. Before leaving Washington I directed the Acting Treasurer to burn the Confederate Treasury notes above named, in the presence of the Secretary of War, General Breckinridge, and myself.

Mr. Davis was captured nearly a week after this, in southern Georgia, and therefore, Judge Evans' suspicions that he cared more for his treasury than for his family are as baseless in truth as they are unmanly and ungenerous in inference.

These passages in that speech seem to have been an awkward attempt in this modified form to revive the exploded story of Mr. Davis being captured in female attire, with bags of gold upon him, invented and used at first to excite against him feelings of ridicule and contempt, and now, after the lapse of nearly four years, revived in Texas, and pressed into service for the purpose of arousing unjust suspicions against former Confederates, and to be used as a means of showing to the people of Texas that they ought to divide the present State into several in order to guard against the designs attributed by Judge Evans to Mr. Davis and others at the time of the fall of Richmond, of a desire to establish a Trans-Mississippi empire. If the facts presented by Judge Evans for this purpose are judicious, what must be thought of his logic, and of his respect for the intelligence of the body he was addressing, and of the people to whom this speech is sent.

In this connection I think it right for me to make a statement in justice to Mr. Davis, which has not heretofore been made public, as far as I know, and a part of which is only known to him and myself.

In coming through South Carolina, he and myself riding ahead of our company, passed a cabin on the roadside, when he asked a woman who was standing in the door for a drink of water. On handing it to him she said, "are you President Davis?" On his replying in the affirmative, she said to him, pointing to a little boy barely large enough to walk a little, "that is your namesake, we call him Jeff. Davis." He took from his pocket a gold coin, apparently the size of a three dollar piece of sovereign, and handing it to her told her to give it to the little boy—saying to me as he rode off that that was his last piece of coin, which he had kept as a sort of keep-sake on accouut of its being a coin seldom seen in this country.

Subsequently, when in company with several members of his Cabinet, the subject of their finances was mentioned, and their poverty was made, among themselves, the subject of passing amusement, Mr. Davis took out his pocket-book and counted, I think, about two hundred and seventy dollars in Treasury notes, then almost entirely worthless, and said, laughingly, that was his fortune in money. He then added, that it was a source of gratification rather than of regret that himself and nearly all the members of his Cabinet had sacrificed their private fortunes in the struggle for the liberty of the people. I will also add, that when it was determined, after the surrender of General Johnston, to transfer the field of military operations to the West of the Mississippi, one of his Cabinet told Mr. Davis that he had money enough to take them both across the river.

These facts are given to show the injustice which has been done to one whose hopes and thoughts and energies were all wholly devoted to the cause, then so dear to us, in which he was engaged; and who, amidst his all-engrossing public duties and responsibilities, took no thought of his private fortune or of his personal safety.

I am persuaded that the wise and good and honorable, even among those who thought him wrong in his support of the cause of Southern independence, and imperiled their lives in opposing him on the battle-field, will accord to him sincerity of convictions as to the righteousness of the cause in which he was engaged, integrity of purpose, and those great qualities of head and heart which fitted him to be the leader of a heroic people in a great struggle.

I know the time has not yet fully come for explanations like this to be received without offence to the prejudices of many good people, who have only viewed Mr. Davis of late years as a public enemy. But I trust now, since this cause has been forever abandoned, the generous and just will see that I but perform a duty to one who, while he is in a distant land, is yet very dear to me and to millions of others in the United States.

Very respectfully,

JOHN H. REAGAN.

—"Fanny, don't you think that Mr. Bold is a handsome man?" "Oh, no; I can't endure him. He is homely enough." "Well, he's fortunate, at all events; for an old aunt has just died and left him $50,000." "Indeed! is it true? Now I come to recollect, there is a certain noble air about him, and he has a fine eye—that can't be denied."

— Touching obituary notice in a Chicago paper: "Amos Skeeter, a well-known resident of this city, and a fine singer, was instantly killed at the Tremont House last night, by a stranger, who became angry at his attentions. He leaves a large family."

— The more a woman's waist is shaped like an hour glass the quicker will the sands of life run out.

Model Editorial Salutatory.

"Mark Twain," the well known humorist, has become one of the proprietors of the Buffalo *Express*, and publishes his "salutatory" in the following (typo)-graphic style:

Being a stranger, it would be immodest and unbecoming in me to suddenly and violently assume the associate editorship of the Buffalo *Express* without a single explanatory word of comfort or encouragement to the unoffending patrons of the paper who are about to be exposed to constant attacks of my wisdom and learning. But this explanatory word shall be as brief as possible. I only wish to assure parties having a friendly interest in the prosperity of the journal that I am not going to hurt the paper deliberately and intentionally at any time. I am not going to introduce any startling reforms, or in any way attempt to make trouble. I am simply going to do my plain, unpretending duty, when I cannot get out of it; I shall work diligently and honestly and faithfully at all times and upon all occasions, when privation and want shall compel me to do it; in writing I shall always confine myself strictly to the truth, except when it is attended with inconvenience; I shall witheringly rebuke all forms of crime and misconduct, except when committed by the party inhabiting my own vest; I shall not make use of slang or vulgarity upon any occasion or under any circumstances, and never use profanity except in discussing house rent and taxes. Indeed, upon second thought, I will not even use it then, for it is unchristian, inelegant and degrading—though to speak truly I do not see how house rent and taxes are going to be discussed worth a cent without it. I shall not often meddle with politics, because we have a political editor who is already excellent, and only needs to serve a term in the penitentiary in order to be perfect. I shall not write any poetry, unless I conceive a spite against the subscribers.

Such is my platform. I do not see any earthly use in it; but custom is law, and custom must be obeyed, no matter how much violence it may do to one's feelings. And this custom which I am slavishly following now is surely one of the least necessary that ever came into vogue. In private life a man does not go and trumpet his crime before he commits it, but your new editor is such an important personage that he feels called upon to write a "salutatory" at once, and he puts into it all that he knows, and all that he don't know, and some things he thinks he knows but isn't certain of. And he parades his list of wonders which he is going to perform; of reforms which he is going to introduce, and public evils which he is going to exterminate; and public blessings which he is going to abate. He spreads this all out with oppressive solemnity over a column and a half of large print, and feels that the country is saved. His satisfaction over it is something enormous. He then settles down to his miracles and inflicts profound platitudes and impenetrable wisdom upon a helpless public as long as they can stand it, and then they send him off Consul to some savage island in the Pacific in the vague hope that the cannibals will like him well enough to eat him. And with an inhumanity which is but a fitting climax to his career of persecution, instead of packing his trunk at once, he lingers to inflict upon his benefactors a "valedictory." If there is anything more uncalled for than a "salutatory," it is one of those tearful, blubbering long-winded "valedictories"—wherein a man who has been annoying the public for ten years cannot take leave of them without sitting down to cry a column and a half. Still, it is the custom to write valedictories, and custom should be respected. In my heart I admire my predecessor for declining to print a valedictory, though in public I say and shall continue to say sternly it is custom, and he ought to have printed one. People never read them any more than they do the "salutatories," but nevertheless he ought to have honored the old fossil—he ought to have printed a valedictory. I said as much to him, and he replied:

"I have resigned my place—I have departed this life—I am journalistically dead, at present, ain't I?"

"Yes."

"Well, wouldn't you consider it disgraceful in a corpse to sit up and comment on the funeral!"

I record it here, and preserve it from oblivion, as the briefest and best "valedictory" that has yet come under my notice.

MARK TWAIN.

READ YOUR OWN PAPER.—We should just as soon think of making a practice of borrowing a man's tooth brush as borrowing his paper. Every man ought to have a newspaper of his own, if he would be considered "a man among men."

The too prevalent practice of borrowing newspapers has become a proper subject for condemnation. A single copy is often made to do duty in half a dozen families, and that, too, from one year's end to another.

There are many people in the world who make a business to get the reading of their county paper without any expense to themselves. We know it is hard for a person to refuse a neighbor or an acquaintance the privilege of reading his newspaper, but some borrowers have little delicacy and sensitiveness, and a prompt, flat refusal to encourage them in sponging on others for news and interesting reading would not hurt them much, and might induce them to take and pay for a good paper.

It is unjust to the subscriber, and deprives the publisher of the reward he is entitled to from all who derive pleasure and instruction from the paper it has cost so much money to issue.

Politics and News.

Important Decision by the Supreme Court.

James U. Adams *vs.* John Kleckley—*In Supreme Court, April Term*, 1869.

OPINION—MOSES, C. J.

The judgment we are about to pronounce in this case is not to be regarded as affecting the decision made in Padgett and Corley *ads.* Meetze, at the present Term. As there ruled, it is in the discretion of the Circuit Judge, for reasons satisfactory to him, to nominate any fit and proper person as the agent of the Court, to make a sale ordered by it. Without, however, some cause sufficient in his view to induce a different course, it is more consistent and conformable with the regular routine of the business of the Court, to order the conduct of its sales by its own officer. The question now before us is whether the Clerk or Sheriff is the proper officer to make sales directed by the Circuit Court. We meet the proposition as a general one, not confining our inquiry only to a sale of land decreed under a foreclosure of mortgage. By the Constitution of 1868, (Section 16, Article 1, page 15,) the Court of Common Pleas was invested with jurisdiction in all matters of equity, but the Courts heretofore established for that purpose were to continue as then organized, until the 1st day of January, 1869, for the disposition of causes therein pending, unless otherwise provided by law. By Section 1st, of the same article, the judicial power of the State was vested in the Supreme Court and in two Circuit Courts, to wit: a Court of Common Pleas, with civil jurisdiction, and a Court of General Sessions, with criminal jurisdiction only. The 27th Section of the same Article provides for the election of a Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, and the 30th, for that of a Sheriff of each County. The Act of 20th August, 1868, (Sec. 6, page 10,) entitled "an Act to organize the Circuit Courts," transfers all pending "suits in Equity to the Courts of Common Pleas, in and for their respective counties, to be entered on the dockets of the said Courts, and to be heard and determined as if originally brought there," with a proviso, "that all causes pending as aforesaid, cognizable under the Constitution in the Courts of Probate shall be transferred to the said Courts." We have thus comprised all that the Constitution and the Acts since adopted contain bearing on the point before us. Commissioners of the Court of Equity were first appointed for the several Districts by the Act of 1791, (Statutes at Large 7, 258.) "to establish a Court of Equity for the State," with certain enumerated duties, followed by a general power, "to do and perform all other matters and things which are usually done either by the Master or Register of said Court, previous to the hearing of any cause." The same Act, as well as that of 1839, (Statutes at Large 11, 110,) directed that they were to make all sales under the decree or order of the said Court. This last Act required of them the performance of all services provided by law in relation to Registers in Equity. Their powers were enlarged from time to time, and judicial authority was added to their ministerial functions.

No provision has been made by the Constitution, or the laws since enacted, in regard to sales ordered by the Circuit Court of Common Pleas in its exercise of equity jurisdiction. The Clerk and the Sheriff are both officers of the said Court, and to determine upon which of these devolves the right and duty to make its sales, we must be governed by the existing statutes in reference to these officers, and the analogy which may exist between the powers respectively conferred upon them. The sale under an order of a Circuit Judge made in a matter of equity jurisdiction, is not by the direction of a Court of Equity, but by that of a Court of Common Pleas. When the Judge below, therefore, says "that a Sheriff has never been employed to make judicial sales for a Court of Equity," he overlooks the fact "that the Courts heretofore established" for the administration of equity no longer exist; and their jurisdiction has been transferred to the Court of Common Pleas. Upon this transfer followed the entire abolition of all the officers and machinery incident and attached to them, except so far as retained by the existing law. We are not prepared to concur with the Judge in affirming "that the ministerial duties of the Commissioner have been wholly assigned to the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, who is also Clerk of the Court of Equity." Where or how has such assignment been made? It is not to be questioned that the duties which formerly pertained to the Register are to be performed by the Clerk of the Court, for they are necessarily incident to his office, and follow, from the very constitution of it; but the ministerial duties of the Commissioner have not by direct enactment been transferred to him, nor are they required for the full and proper discharge of his office as Clerk of the Common Pleas. The office of Commissioner being abolished, and the offices of Clerk and Sheriff retained, we are led to an examination of the statutes, as they stand in regard to these, so as to conclude which by right is entitled to make sales ordered by the Circuit Court.

The Sheriff is the executive officer of the Court. From the earliest legislation, all sales ordered by the Court of Law were made by him. The Act of 1839, (Statutes at Large, 11, 28,) to go no farther back, requires "the Sheriff to serve, execute and return every process, rule, order or notice issued by any Court of Record in the State, or by other competent authority." The same Act (p. 27) requires him "to keep a sale book, in which he shall enter all sales which he may make under any order, decree, execution or final process of any Court of this State." Is any such obligation imposed on the Clerk? May it not admit of doubt when he makes a sale, under the order of the Court, that it is *virtute officii*, and in the event of a liability for neglect or malfeasance, a resort for indemnity would be had to his official bond? In the determination of the question, some force may be derived from the practice and procedure before the new Constitution was adopted, in cases where the Court of Law exercised the functions of the Court of Equity.

Partition and foreclosure of mortgage are properly of equity jurisdiction. By the Act of 1791, (Statutes at Large, 5, 163,) parties entitled to a distributive share of any estate, real or personal, may apply to the Court of Law for a writ of partition. If a sale becomes necessary, the Sheriff (and not the Clerk) has been the officer to make it. Here is the exercise by the Court of law of equity jurisdiction.—*Smith vs. Smith*, 1 *Bailey*, 70.

By another Act, passed in the same year, the Court of Law could in certain cases order the foreclosure of a mortgage of real estate; and when, under proceedings therefor, a sale has been directed, the Sheriff has always been the officer charged with the duty. *It would not comport with the symmetry which should prevail in the forms and practice of the same Court, that on an application, under the same Act of 1791, a sale should be required to be made by the Sheriff, and at the very next moment, on a bill for foreclosure, it should be required to be made by the Clerk. The whole purview of the Constitution seems to look to the adoption of the same forms of practice in the administration of law and equity by the Circuit Courts, for the fifth Article directs, "that justice may be administered in a uniform mode of pleadings, without distinction between law and equity, they, the General Assembly, shall provide for abolishing the distinct forms of action, and for that purpose," &c.—*Forty-third Rule of Court. Trescott & Inglesby vs. McLaughlin, McD.*, 4, 264.

In the United States Courts, where equity and law are administered by the same Judge, the practice in relation to sales is in conformity with the conclusion to which we have arrived. There the Marshal, the executive officer of the Court, is always the agent through which they are made. We have taken a more extensive view of the subject than the particular case probably required. This course has been pursued because the counsel on both sides deemed a judgment of this Court desirable, as one of the grounds taken, that the practice of the Circuit Courts in regard to sales might be uniform. We are obliged, however, to affirm the judgment of the Court below, for it had the right to designate any fit and proper person to make the sale, and, therefore, might appoint the Clerk as well as any other on cause satisfactory to it.

Our judgment is, that where the Court intends the sale to be made by the proper officer, the Sheriff, and not the Clerk, is such officer. The judgment, however, of the Circuit Court in this case is affirmed for the reasons stated.

THE INCOME TAX.—The movement alluded to some time ago, favoring a modification of the revenue laws affecting incomes, has assumed a more formidable and general character. Many members of Congress approve the proposed change in the law, and representatives of important interests throughout the country are in Washington giving shape and consistency to the proposed change. Senator Sherman's recent speech at Canton, Ohio, has been severely criticised as politically imprudent in consequence of his avowal of the unpopularity of the tax. It is clearly shown by those familiar with revenue statistics that the amount of currency revenue from internal taxes requisite for meeting all expenses of the Government, except interest on the public debt, can be realized from whisky, tobacco, stamps, licenses and a modified income tax. The plan proposed is to increase the tax on whisky to $1 per gallon, which, it is claimed, will realize $80,000,000, if the means now within reach of the revenue bureau for the prevention of fraud shall be adopted. From tobacco, at least $30,000,000 can be realized; from stamps, with a modification of the present law, say $10,000,000; from formented liquors, $10,000,000; from licenses, $10,000,000; and then from the modified income tax but $15,000,000 would be required to make a total of $155,000,000, an amount equal to Secretary Boutwell's estimate of the expenditures for the present fiscal year. The plan is to confine the income tax to the tax on interest paid on the national debt, the five per cent. to be deducted when the interest is paid. This will realize $6,225,000 without a dollar of expenses incurred in the collection. The balance it is proposed to raise by taxing incomes derived from surplus property embraced in stocks of banks, railways and other corporations, and from interest paid on bonds of such corporations. This plan it is claimed will, while completely removing the unpopular and inquisitorial individual income tax law from the statutes, result in the saving of at least two millions of dollars per annum in the cost of collection of the revenue by reducing the number of objects of taxation, and consequently the number of officers.

— A gentleman saw an advertisement that a receipt for the cure of dyspepsia might be had by sending two postage stamps to the advertiser. He sent his stamps, and the answer was, "Dig in your garden and let whiskey alone."

No New Party—But New Life.

We are not disposed to ignore the liberal spirit that has been manifested not only in Virginia and Tennessee, but also in the ranks of the radical party elsewhere. Nor are we inclined to indulge in any harsh criticism upon the plausible notion entertained by some that another party organization on the part of the Democratic masses of the South would result in good.

We favor latitude of thought and expression, and advocate independence even within the lines of party formations. Yet we submit that there can come no good from the proposed "third party"—at least, to the anti-radicalists. We need, as some journal has well expressed it, not so much a new party as *new vigor*. Hence, it is, entertaining these views, that we are gratified to find that little favor attends the suggestion to form "a third party" in South Carolina. It is likely that the anti-radical people and press will remain united, as usual. We are satisfied that the said move can do no good to the anti-radicalists, and if consummated, would do harm, and harm only. At this time, to say the least, it would divide the whites, and gain no strength from the colored voters.

Already has the chief organ of the radicals spoken decisively on this point. It tells "disconsolate Democrats" and "disappointed Republicans" that there is no ground for compromise. It holds that South Carolina "Republicanism" is as pure as the article ever gets to be. If radicals elsewhere have been proscriptive and extreme, not so here! In South Carolina, from the first, radicalism has been liberal! And it adds that the Republican party of South Carolina stands now, and has ever stood, upon the very ground since taken by Walker, in Virginia, and by Senter, in Tennessee. Thus, it argues, why establish a "conservative Republican party," when you have got one already?

Now, these views will no doubt be accepted by the great majority of those who have been sustaining radicalism here. And if so, it can be seen at a glance what chance there is for the "third party" movement. No; not in this way, Carolinians, can you redeem your State; nor can you get any nearer to your salvation than earnestly to adhere to a liberal Democracy. In that faith let the columns remain united, though open to accession; and when we do win a victory, let it be one the fruits of which will be enduring and substantial.

Though, however, no new party is called for, let it be borne in mind that there is room in the old for new life—new energy—new vigor. In the last Presidential canvass we favored a progressive and a liberal policy on the part of the national Democracy, and we advocate a qualified suffrage for the freedman as not only right in itself, but as a necessary concession to the opinions of our friends in the North. We believe that time has vindicated the wisdom of the policy adopted by the South Carolina Democracy, though success did not reward their efforts. Now, as then, we advocate a liberal, progressive Democracy—one that recognizes accomplished facts—that deals with living and practical issues, and one that will commend itself to the support and confidence of all true, moderate and reasonable men, and bring into hearty co-operation all of the best elements of the State.—*Columbia Phœnix.*

A PUZZLE.—Here is a question for young arithmeticians, and others who like to crack an arithmetical nut now and then, to try their wits upon:

Two Arabs sat down to dinner, and were accosted by a stranger, who requested to join the party, saying "that as he could not get provisions to buy in that part of the country, if they would admit him to eat only an equal share with themselves, he would willingly pay them for the whole." The frugal meal consisted of eight small loaves of bread, five of which belonged to one of the Arabs, and three to the other. The stranger having eaten a third part of the eight loaves, arose and laid before them eight pieces of money, saying: 'My friends there is what I promised you; divide it between you according to your just rights.' A dispute arose, of course, respecting a division of the money; but reference being made to the cadi, he adjudged seven pieces to the owner of five loaves and only one piece to him who had owned the three loaves. Yet the cadi decided justly.

OLD DEBTS.—The practice of scaling old debts by the Juries of the country, originated at Anderson C. H., under the auspices of Gen. Harrison. Of course there was a material inclination in that way on the part of nearly every person, for there is surely equity, if not law, in such a course. The rule of law once broken the waters flowed freely, and the example was followed by Oconee, Pickens and Greenville counties, the entire circuit of Judge Orr. Our Abbeville exchanges inform us that the same course, in a greater degree is being adopted in that county. The rule there is to allow on old debts, one-half of the principal and interest to the first day of January, 1861, being about 30 per cent. of the debt and interest. Our Juries adopted and have followed the rule of allowing one-half the principal and interest to date of verdict. The ball gathers as it goes.—*Keowee Courier.*

— A married man who eloped from Mississippi with another woman, has just written to his deserted wife to educate his three children respectably; as he hopes to meet them in heaven, if circumstances over which he has no control should forbid their meeting again on earth.